generic drugs are some of the measures being taken to ensure no accumulation of stocks. Also, the staff strength against current workload is periodically being reviewed.

Appendix Operations in Dr. Ram Manohar Lophia Hospital

†961. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the date-wise number of appendix operation performed in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital from 1st to 31st July, 1999, together with the names of the doctors under whose supervision these operations were performed;

(b) the number of patients shifted during this period, without conducting any investigation, to the Orthopaedic Department due to post-operation pain and other complaints and also negligence of concerned doctors;

(c) whether Government have taken action against anyone after fixing responsibility for the said troubles caused to the patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The date-wise number of appendix operation performed in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital from 1st to 31st July, 1999, together with the names of the doctors under whose supervision these operations were performed is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 28]

† Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) The hospital authorities have informed that no complaint/ information has been received from any patient in this regard.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Free Health Facilities for NER

962. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government for ensuring compulsory free health facilities to all the poor persons below the poverty line in the country particularly in North Eastern Region, during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of amount to be spent therefor, State-wise, District-wise; and

(c) by when the target is to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) The steps taken by the Government for providing health care facilities to all the poor particularly in the North Eastern Region during the Ninth Plan, inter-alia, include optimising coverage and quality of health care delivery; controlling communicable and non-communicable diseases through National Health programmes. Government health facilities are generally free. State wise Ninth Plan approved outlay for health sector is given in the Statement. (*See* below.) In addition, Central assistance will be provided to States under National Health and Family Welfare Programmes. District-wise allocations are not available. No target has been fixed for providing free health facilities to the poor.